Preliminary Amendment September 25, 2006 Attorney Docket No. 12706-44

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-16 and 18-27 are currently pending in this application. Claim 17 has been cancelled. The claims have been amended to remove multiple dependencies and for clarity. Claims 22-27 have been newly added with this Preliminary Amendment. Support for the newly added claims may be found in the originally filed claims and in the specification. No new matter has been added in these changes.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner enter the Preliminary Amendment and proceed with examination of the application on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

Heidi A. Dare

Registration No. 50,775 Attorney for Applicants

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE. P.O. BOX 10395 CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610 (312) 321-4200